

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00460 041551Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 W

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R 041405Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9712

UNCLAS HELSINKI 460

FOR JOAN CLAR EUR/EX FROM AMBASSADOR AUSTAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, FI, AFSP

SUBJECT: POST STAFFING

REF: STATE 049369

1. WHILE I SAW COMBINING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTIONS AS OFFERING CERTAIN OPERATING ADVANTAGES HERE AND AS JUSTIFYING UPGRADING OF POSITION OF SECTION HEAD TO 9-3, I BELIEVE POSITION OF ECON/COM SECTION HEAD SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED O-3 EVEN IF COMBINED SECTION NOT PRACTICABLE.

2. PRINCIPAL JUSTIFICATION FOR O-3 RANK IS NEED HAVE EXPERIENCED OFFICER WHO CAN DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH TOP BUSINESSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY IS IN PROCESS OF CREATING NEW STATE SECRETARY POSITION FOR ITS TOP ECONOMIC OFFICIAL. US TRADE WITH FINLAND AMOUNTS TO HALF BILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR AND US INTEREST IN FINNISH ECONOMY HAS BEEN GROWING STEADILY.

3. SINCE DCM AT THIS EMBASSY WILL USUALLY BE OFFICER FROM POLITICAL CONE, I BELIEVE THAT O-3 CLASSIFICATION OF ECON/COM SECTION HEAD POSITION NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT US ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN FINLAND NOT ONLY RECEIVE THE ATTENTION THEY DESERVE BUT ALSO TO CONVEY TO FINNS, US BUSINESSMEN AND OTHERS THAT US ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO THESE INTERESTS.

4. A FINLAND WHICH IS STRONG ECONOMICALLY IS IN THE BEST POLITICAL
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INTEREST OF THE US AS WELL.

5. REQUEST HUGHES' REPLACEMENT BE ENERGETIC O-3 OFFICER WHO CAN
KEEP THIS CONNECTION IN MIND.
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NNN

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